

SAND RIDGE STATE FOREST

EQUINE REGULATIONS

Equine riding is permitted only on trails and fire lanes with the following exceptions and restrictions: The Green Trail Loop, the H.A. Gleason Nature Preserve, Pine Campground, Oak Campground, Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, all back country campsites, Turkey Pass Picnic Area, Archery and Trap Ranges, game fields, and ponds are **Restricted Areas** closed to equine use. There are approximately 50 miles of marked trails and an additional 120 miles of fire lanes open for equine use. Effective Dec. 1, 2005 alcohol possession and consumption is prohibited. If there are questions about where to ride or not to ride, ask staff for assistance. They are happy to help!

Sand Ridge State Forest is closed to equine riding during the Firearm Deer Season. Every person in Sand Ridge during the Youth Firearm Deer Seasons will have on a solid, vivid, blaze orange cap and vest.

Public notice of prescribed fire will make note of site closure on the Department "Closure Listing" seven days prior to burn ignition. Prior to igniting any prescribed fire a horn will sound 3 times to notify any person within the burn unit they must exit the area within 45 minutes. A second horn will sound three times 15 minutes after the first, indicating 30 minutes to exit area. In addition, notification to the public will be reflected in handouts, hunter fact sheet, hunter windshield card sign-up web page, Sand Ridge State Forest web page, and Sand Ridge telephone answering machine.

Riders must stay on marked trails or fire lanes; starting new trails or simply riding cross-country is prohibited.

Please load and unload equine at Horseman's Park Campground while camping in Sand Ridge. Day riders are confined to Mockernut Meadow Day Use Area only. Overnight Class "C" camping is available at Horseman's Park Campground for \$8.00 per night. Maximum capacity for Horseman's Park Campground is 20 campsites.

Equine facilities include hitching rails, picket line posts, privies, water and shelter. Only campers may pull in and park at designated camp sites. Shelter and campground reservations are accepted at <http://www.reserveamerica.com>.

To help save all trees, use of fencing, corrals or tethering equines directly to or from any tree in the forest is prohibited. Please backfill all holes dug by equines. Please keep all dogs on a leash and under control of owner. Fires are permitted on concrete pads only. Please put manure in designated area. Title 17, Administrative Rules and Regulations, Chapters 110 and 130 will be enforced. **During the spring thaw or an emergency, equine facilities may be closed. Please check forest and trail information by phone at #309-597-2212 after 9:00am each day.**

Littering is prohibited. Please pack out what you pack in. Please use care when smoking. Enjoy your ride! Sand Ridge State Forest P.O.Box 111 25799E CR 2300N Forest City, IL 61532 #309-597-2212

September 9, 2015 BEL